

REMARKS

This responds to the Final Office Action mailed on June 11, 2009.

No claims are amended, claims 1-4, 9-11 and 20-26 are canceled, and claims 44-49 are added. Thus, claims 12-16, 27-35 and 44-49 are now pending in this application. Applicant has cancelled the rejected claims to expedite allowance of the subject matter indicated to be allowable, and in so doing reserves the right to prosecute the cancelled claims in another patent application.

New Claims

Applicant amended the application to add new claims 44-49, such that 5 independent and 20 total claims are now pending in this application. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter was added in making this amendment.

§ 103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1, 12, 20-23, 26, 27, 31, and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Weinfurtner et al. (U.S. 6,035,050; hereinafter “Weinfurtner”) in view of Watanabe et al. (U.S. 6,148,274), in further view Takagi et al. (U.S. 7,343,021; hereinafter “Takagi”).

Claims 1-4 and 9-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Weinfurtner in view of Watanabe in further view of Holland et al. (U.S. 4,697,242; hereinafter “Holland”).

Applicant respectfully cancels claims 1-4, 9-11 and 20-26 without prejudice or disclaimer, and reserves the right to reintroduce them in one or more related applications at a later date. Applicant has cancelled the rejected claims to expedite allowance of the subject matter indicated to be allowable, and reserves the right to prosecute the cancelled claims in another patent application.

Claims 12, 27, 31 and 34 are listed as rejected in paragraph 5 of the Office Action, but they are also listed as allowed in paragraph 10 of the Office Action. Given the presence of a detailed explanation of the allowance and the absence of a detailed explanation of the rejection

Applicant respectfully believes that the claims are allowed. Please contact the undersigned if this is not the case.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant acknowledges the allowance of claims 12-16 and 27-35. New claims 44-49 depend from allowed independent claims, and hence these dependent claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests consideration and allowance of claims 44-49.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's representative at (715) 824-5144 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or deficiencies, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being filed using the USPTO's electronic filing system EFS-Web, and is addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 11th day of September, 2009.

Kathryn Grinnell
Name

/ Kathryn Grinnell /
Signature